



SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT

March 2012

KU Recognized with STARS Bronze Rating for Sustainability Achievements

The University of Kansas has received a STARS Bronze Rating in recognition of sustainability achievements from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). STARS, the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System, measures and encourages sustainability in all aspects of higher education. This is KU's first year completing the STARS self-assessment.

"Building Sustainable Traditions, introduced last fall, is framed around the principles of STARS and is guiding our path towards making sustainability an inherent part of everything we do at KU," said Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. "We are proud of achieving a Bronze rating, but more importantly STARS helps



us identify opportunities to build on our strengths and intensify our efforts in other areas."

The STARS self-assessment evaluates academic, administrative, and operational efforts and helps establish a baseline for sustainability initiatives throughout campus.

The complete STARS report is available online at www.stars.aashe.org.

Welcome to the Sustainability Spotlight!

Welcome to the first issue of the Sustainability Spotlight, your source for information about sustainability initiatives at the University of Kansas.

Each month we will highlight recent achievements, ongoing programs, and upcoming events that help make our campus and community a more sustainable place to live, work, and play.

We'd love to have your input as we develop this monthly newsletter. Let us know what you'd like to see included and what your department or organization is doing to advance sustainability at KU.

Enjoy!

Jeff Severin, Director
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Lights Out! Leading to Significant Savings

After a month of competition, three University of Kansas buildings participating in the Lights Out! energy-saving contest are making major reductions in their energy use. Bailey Hall, Green Hall and Summerfield Hall combined to reduce their overall energy consumption by 10% compared to February 2011.



The Deans of the participating schools go toe-to-toe(-to-toe) in the Lights Out! Competition: School of Law Dean Stephen "The Taxman" Mazza, School of Business Dean Neeli "The Influencer" Bendapudi., and College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Dean Danny "Numero Uno" Anderson.

Lights Out! is a friendly energy conservation competition between buildings on the University of Kansas Lawrence Campus. Energy Solutions Professionals (ESP), an Overland Park-based energy service company, and the KU Center for Sustainability are coordinating the competition to see which building can save the most energy over a twelve-week period. The contest started February 1 and runs through April 26.

At the end of February, standings in the competition were:

Building	Overall Savings
1) Green Hall	13.5%
2) Bailey Hall	8.7%
3) Summerfield Hall	6.8%

In order to achieve the savings, building occupants are ensuring unnecessary lighting, office equipment and electronics are powered down when they aren't needed. They are also working with ESP to adjust the run-time of heating and cooling equipment to better match the actual occupancy times of the building and looking for additional opportunities for conservation in their buildings.

"The results so far are very impressive, but I'm not too surprised," stated John Geist, ESP's Energy Conservation Specialist. "Everybody I've spoken with in the buildings has been very supportive of the contest and they all want to

know what else they can do to get more savings. We'll keep working with them to find everything we can."

As an incentive for participation, students, staff and faculty that sign a pledge to reduce their energy use are eligible for weekly prize drawings being held throughout the competition. So far, 140 individuals have signed the pledge. The building that makes the greatest improvement overall wins a grand prize of a barbeque lunch for all the participants from their building.

More information about the competition, the energy pledge, and the results can be found at www.energy.ku.edu/lightout/.

Greening the Crimson and Blue

KU Clean Your Files Week to be held March 19-23

Is all the “stuff” around your office starting to pile up? Are you wondering what to do with the non-confidential files no longer being used, needed or wanted? KU Recycling Clean Your Files Week can help you!

Paper and unwanted mail make up a lot of what ends up in the trash. Most books, phone books, magazines, papers and files can be recycled. Clean Your Files Week, which will run

March 19-23 on the KU Lawrence campus, is a great time to clean out and recycle your unneeded non-confidential documents. Fill your existing bin or contact KU Recycling at 785.864.2855 or kurecycling@ku.edu for additional bins or special pick-ups.

Also visit www.recycle.ku.edu to find your buildings scheduled pick-up days.



Reduce your trash, help the environment and get your spring cleaning done all at the same time. Join us in the KU Clean Your Files Week!

Sustaining our Planet

Field of Dreams: How to Grow a Sustainable Chemical Industry

What do plush carpets, glossy lipsticks and artificial heart valves have in common? They are all made from crude oil. In fact, more than 10,000 products get their start from non-renewable fossil fuels. But can we make consumer goods from living plants instead of petroleum?

Researchers at KU's Center for Environmentally Beneficial Catalysis, or CEBC, think so. They are designing clean technologies to make a slew of

chemical building blocks from prairie grasses, crop leftovers and other agricultural materials. Unlike petroleum, crops can be harvested year after year--a key aspect of sustainability. Bio-based chemicals must also be manufactured by eco-friendly processes. This is why scientists and engineers at CEBC minimize wasteful byproducts in their technologies. They also use less harmful materials and conserve energy. State-of-the-art computer models help them optimize the entire life cycle of the product,

from crop choice through production facilities and beyond. Clearly, a bio-based chemical industry has the potential to grow in fields across the Midwest. If we build clean technologies today, CEBC researchers hope to turn this dream into a sustainable reality.

For more information about the Center for Environmentally Beneficial Catalysis, visit www.cebc.ku.edu.

Live Sustainably

Upcoming Campus and Community Events

March 14, 4-6 PM

Spring Cleaning at the Rain Garden
Ambler Student Recreation Fitness Center

March 15, 3:30-5 PM

Spring Diversity Talks
Kansas Union, Jayhawk Room

March 23 and 24, 8 AM-3 PM

Spring Compost Sale
Off Campus, 1420 E 11th St.

March 29, 8:30 AM-1:30 PM

2nd Annual Spring Symposium on the
Scholarship of Diversity
Kansas Union
Register at www.diversity.ku.edu

March 29, 11 AM-2 PM

KU Arbor Day Celebration
Mississippi Street Terrace
(West of Lippincott Hall)

March 30, 3:30-5 PM

Nature & Culture Seminar
Stephanie Lemenager, UC Santa Barbara
Hall Center, Conference Hall

April 10, 7:30-9 PM

Humanities Lecture Series
Jamaica Kincaid
Kansas Union, Woodruff Auditorium

April 14, 11 AM-4 PM

12th Annual Earth Day Parade & Celebration
Parade: Buford Watson Park to South Park
Celebration: South Park

April 19, 2 PM-4 PM

Rain Barrel Workshop
Douglas County Fairgrounds, Building 1
RSVP Required: strarbach@lawrenceks.org

April 23, 5 PM-8:30 PM

Earth Day Event and Rain Barrel Auction
Details available soon!



For more information about these events, visit www.sustainability.ku.edu/events/

Join Us

For more information about sustainability at KU, visit www.sustainability.ku.edu or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/KUSustainability.

Contribute

Is your department or organization contributing to a more sustainable KU? We'd love to hear about it and include your efforts in our next issue of the Spotlight! Send submissions to sustainability@ku.edu.